STATE OF MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS CORPORATIONS, SECURITIES, AND COMMERCIAL LICENSING BUREAU

In the matter of:

Agency No. 344387

CREO GLOBAL CAPITAL, LLC Unregistered, IARD#159771

Respondent.

Assued and entered

This 30 day of Septenber , 2021

NOTICE AND ORDER TO CEASE AND DESIST

Linda Clegg, the Director ("Administrator") of the Corporations, Securities, and Commercial Licensing Bureau ("Bureau"), pursuant to her statutory authority and responsibility to administer and enforce the Michigan Uniform Securities Act (2002), 2008 PA 551, as amended, MCL 451.2101 et seq ("Securities Act"), hereby orders Creo Global Capital, LLC ("Respondent") to cease and desist from acting as an unregistered investment adviser, contrary to the Securities Act. Respondent is notified of the opportunity to request a hearing in this matter.

I. BACKGROUND

A. The Respondent

1. Creo Global Capital, LLC is a Michigan limited liability company which is not registered in any capacity under the Securities Act in Michigan. It was registered as an investment adviser until December 31, 2020 at which time it failed to renew its registration.

B. Findings of Fact

1. Bureau staff began an investigation of Respondent's activities under the Securities Act in Michigan after Respondent failed to renew its registration as an investment adviser at the end of 2020, and failed to complete an application to re-register itself thereafter.

- 2. Bureau staff's investigation developed evidence that Respondent holds itself out to the public as an investment adviser by maintaining a public-facing website advertising investment advisory services to Michigan investors.
- 3. Respondent is not registered as an investment adviser and has failed to claim an exemption, exception, preemption, or exclusion justifying the failure to register.

II. RELEVANT STATUTORY PROVISIONS

1. Section 102(e) of the Securities Act, MCL 451.2102(e) defines "investment adviser", in part, as:

"Investment adviser" means a person that, for compensation, engages in the business of advising others, either directly or through publications or writings, as to the value of securities or the advisability of investing in, purchasing, or selling securities or that, for compensation and as a part of a regular business, issues or promulgates analyses or reports concerning securities. The term includes a financial planner or other person that, as an integral component of other financially related services, provides investment advice to others for compensation as part of a business or that holds itself out as providing investment advice to others for compensation... (Emphasis added).

2. Section 403(1) of the Securities Act, MCL 451.2403(1), states:

A person shall not transact business in this state as an investment adviser unless the person is registered under this act as an investment adviser or is exempt from registration as an investment adviser under subsection (2).

3. Section 503(1) of the Securities Act, MCL 451.2503(1), states:

In a civil action or administrative proceeding under this act, a person claiming an exemption, exception, preemption, or exclusion has the burden to prove the applicability of the exemption, exception, preemption, or exclusions.

III. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Respondent Creo Global Capital, LLC meets the definition of investment adviser under the Securities Act, is not registered as an investment adviser, and has failed to claim a relevant exemption from registration, in violation of MCL 451.2403(1).

IV. ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, pursuant to section 604 of the Securities Act, MCL 451.2604, that:

Notice & Order to Cease & Desist Creo Global Capital, LLC (CN 344387)

- A. Respondent shall immediately CEASE AND DESIST from acting as an unregistered investment adviser, contrary to the Securities Act.
- B. Pursuant to section 604(2) of the Securities Act, this Notice and Order to Cease and Desist is IMMEDIATELY EFFECTIVE.
- C. In a Final Order, the Administrator intends to impose civil fines of \$10,000.00 against Respondent under MCL 451.2604(4). This Notice and Order to Cease and Desist may become final pursuant to Section VI, below.
- D. Pursuant to section 508 of the Securities Act, MCL 451.2508, a person that willfully violates the Securities Act, or an order issued under the Securities Act, is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment for not more than 10 years or a fine of not more than \$500,000.00 for each violation, or both. An individual convicted of violating a rule or order under this act may be fined, but shall not be imprisoned, if the individual did not have knowledge of the rule or order.

V. NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING

Section 604 of the Securities Act, MCL 451.2604, provides that Respondent has 30 days beginning with the first day after the date of service of this Notice and Order to Cease and Desist to submit a written request to the Administrator asking that this matter be scheduled for a hearing. If the Administrator receives a written request in a timely manner, the Administrator shall schedule a hearing within 15 days after receipt of the request. The written request for a hearing must be addressed to:

Corporations, Securities & Commercial Licensing Bureau Regulatory Compliance Division P.O. Box 30018
Lansing, MI 48909

By email: <u>CSCL-FOIA@Michigan.gov</u>

VI. ORDER FINAL ABSENT HEARING REQUEST

A. Under section 604 of the Securities Act, MCL 451.2604, the Respondent's failure to submit a written request for a hearing to the Administrator within 30 days after the service date of this NOTICE AND ORDER TO CEASE AND DESIST shall result in this order becoming a FINAL ORDER by operation of law. The FINAL ORDER includes the imposition of the fines cited described in section IV.C., and the fine amounts set forth below will become due and payable to the Administrator within sixty (60) days after the date this order becomes final:

\$10,000.00 - Creo Global Capital, LLC, under section 604 of the Securities Act, MCL 451.2604.

B. CIVIL FINE payments should be payable to the STATE OF MICHIGAN and contain identifying information (e.g., names and complaint numbers) and mailed to the following address:

Corporations, Securities & Commercial Licensing Bureau Final Order Monitoring P.O. Box 30018
Lansing, MI 48909

- C. Failure to comply with the terms of this Order within the time frames specified may result in additional administrative penalties, including the summary suspension or continued suspension of all registrations held by Respondent under the Securities Act, the denial of any registration renewal, and/or the denial of any future applications for registration, until full compliance is made. Respondent may voluntarily surrender or withdraw a registration under the Securities Act; however, the surrender or withdrawal will not negate the summary suspension or continued suspension of the relevant registrations or any additional administrative proceedings if a violation of this Order or the Securities Act occurred.
- D. Failure to pay the civil fines within six (6) months after this Order becomes final may result in the referral of the civil fines to the Michigan Department of Treasury for collection action against Respondents.

DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
CORPORATIONS, SECURITIES, AND COMMERCIAL LICENSING BUREAU

Linda Clegg, Administrator and Director

Corporations, Securities & Commercial

Licensing Bureau